

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN JIM ELLIOTT**, on February 11, 2005 at 8 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Jim Elliott, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)  
Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)  
Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)  
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)  
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)  
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)  
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R)  
Sen. Bob Story Jr. (R)  
Sen. Ken Toole (D)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Kathleen Ely, Committee Secretary  
Lee Heiman, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 343, 2/7/2005  
Executive Action: None.

00:00:13

**HEARING ON SB 343**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

**SEN. MIKE WHEAT (D), SD 32**, opened the hearing on **SB 343**, Increase beer tax to fund alcohol and drug prevention and treatment.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:10:00            **Bill Muhs, Mothers Against Drunk Driving,  
Governor's Task Force on Drugs and Alcohol**

**EXHIBIT** (tas34a01)

**EXHIBIT** (tas34a02)

00:22:00            **Ron Clem, Teens in Crisis**  
00:26:53            **Don Hargrove, MASP**  
00:36:06            **Jori Frakie, Montana Underage Substance Abuse  
Prevention**  
00:39:53            **Kris Minard**  
00:40:36            **Peg Shea, Turning Point Addiction, Texas**  
00:46:52            **Mona Jamison, Boyd Andrew**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:47:56            **REP. DENNIS HIMMELBERGER, HD 47**  
00:55:13            **Ralph Ferraro, President, Montana Tavern  
Association**  
00:56:49            **Dave Tweet, Busch Agricultural Resources**  
00:59:36            **Neal Leathers, Big Sky Brewing Company**  
01:01:57            **Brian Clark, Montana Beer and Wine Wholesalers  
Association, FUN Beverage**

**EXHIBIT** (tas34a03)

01:06:04            **Kevin Divine, Montana Beer and Wine Wholesalers  
Association, Divine Brothers**  
01:08:06            **Sam Hoffman, Red Lodge Ales**  
01:10:31            **Jay Getz, Summit Beverage**  
01:14:26            **Harry Watkins, Zip Beverage**  
01:16:08            **Brian Smith, Montana Brewers Association**

01:17:21            **Dan Dulle, Montana Beer and Wine Wholesalers  
Association, Flathead Beverage**

**EXHIBIT** (tas34a04)

01:19:50            **Kristy Blazer, Montana Beer and Wine Wholesalers  
Association**

**EXHIBIT** (tas34a05)

**EXHIBIT** (tas34a06)

**EXHIBIT** (tas34a07)

**EXHIBIT** (tas34a08)

01:22:53            **Elaine Taylor, Miller Brewing Company**

01:23:20            **Steve Snezek, Montana Grain Growers Association**

**Informational Testimony:**

01:24:30            **Lee Baerlocher, Department of Revenue**

01:25:26

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:44:13            **Joan Cassidy, Chemical Dependency Bureau Chief,  
Department of Public Health and Human Services**

01:51:11

**Closing by Sponsor:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:04 A.M.

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SEN. JIM ELLIOTT, Chairman

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KATHLEEN ELY, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([tas34aad0.PDF](#))**